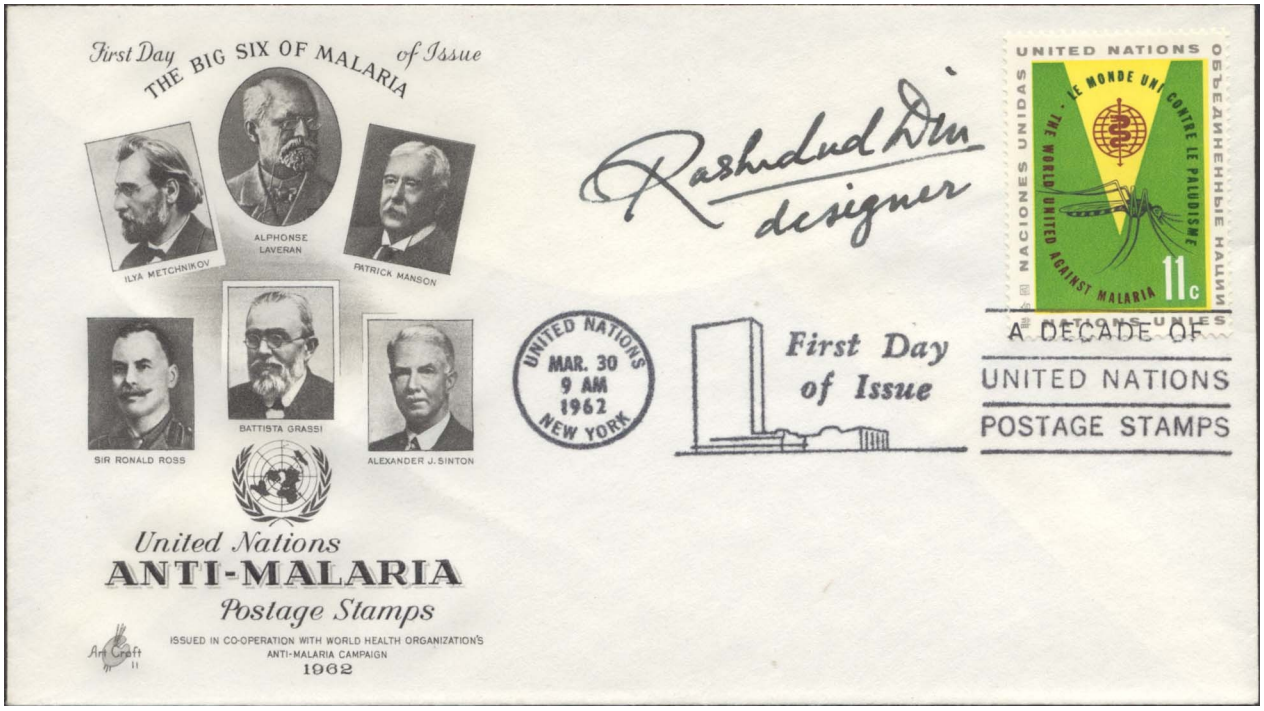
FDCs with “The Big Six Of Malaria” ArtCraft Cachet - Synopsis

The cachet below is the subject of this exhibit. The cachet was created for the United Nations postage stamps from 1962. The FDC below has the intended stamps on it. There were over 100 countries producing stamps for “The World United Against Malaria” campaign in 1962. Some collectors purchased blank Artcraft covers and sent these to other countries issuing malaria stamps in 1962. Stamps from over a dozen other postal administrations are on FDCs with this cachet. Switzerland’s FDC was actually used before the issue date of the U.N. issue.

http://www.malariastamps.com/Cachet_BigSix.asp has some of the FDCs that I have. As mentioned, there are more FDCs than what is shown on the page. Many of these FDCs are extremely hard to acquire and are almost never on the market.

What is not in this exhibit:
There are 2 examples known of the South Vietnam set of 4 with this cachet. In 15 years of collecting, I have never seen one of these for sale and the current owners (1 a Vietnam collector and the other a malaria stamp collector) do not plan to sell theirs.

There is no catalog that I am aware of that has a complete listing of what issues have FDCs with this cachet except for the one I am working with Mike Birrer (malaria stamp collector of 30+ years) on a catalog of malaria stamps including FDCs. We are working with all the malaria stamp collectors that we can get a hold of and Mike has been on this project since 1980. **Except for the Vietnam FDC, I have all of the ‘known’ types (see below).**

Which brings us to the French Colonies. In 1962, the French Colonies (Mali, Chad, Cameroon, 15 in all) produced malaria stamps. http://www.malariastamps.com/FO_OmniProofs.asp has 14 of the proofs issued (Mali is not included because it was issued in its correct color). I have FDCs from Ivory, Congo, Gabon and Dahomey with this cachet. These were all ‘created’ by James H. Sheaffer who bought blank FDCs from Artcraft, Artmaster, and a few other cachet makers and sent them around the world to have them serviced. If James sent out these 4 French Colonies, might he have sent out the other 11? Have they survived? For the 4 FDCs that I do have, no one else has a duplicate FDC so these may be unique? This has been checked with a dozen malaria collectors including Mike Birrer and Ron Ward to name a few important ones (that were original members of the Malaria Philatelist International MPI in the late 1970s). I restarted the MPI in the summer of June 2007 and now have 35 members - free club at http://www.malariastamps.com/mpi/